A RECORD UNPARALLELED

Jefferson City, Mo., Oct. 4.

The veracity of official facts and figures cannot be questioned when they are correctly quoted, be they Democratic or Republican. The following exhibit of entries in the authentic and authoritative records of the Missouri State Treasury go a long way to establish which was the most economical, efficient and result-producing administration, the Gardner-Middlekamp-Sullivan regime which is rapidly drawing to an end, or that of the "mystrious stranger," with Herbert S. Hadley controlling the executive reins which abruptly terminated in January, 1913.

Here are the balances in the State Treasury, all funds, and also the State general revenue fund, alone, in even figures, as they stood on the morning of the two days, September 28, in 1912, and eight years later, in 1920. The facts and figures tell the tale for themselves.

Balance, State Treasury, Sept. 28, 1912.

Grand Total, all funds—$3,015,000.
State general revenue fund—$870,-000.

Balance State Treasury, Sept. 28, 1920.

Grand total, all funds—$9,244,000.
State general revenue fund, $2,939,-000.

The highest State record as to total of all moneys in Missouri's treasury, present and past administirtions, was atained on September 7, 1920, just three weeks ago, when the balance, all in glittering yellow gold or the exact equivalent, was $12,446,000. Since then nearly $3,500,000 in gold has been divided between and paid to the public school fund of Missouri's 114 counties, leaving the balance on Sept. 28, 1920 at the comfortable and assuring sum of $9'244,000.

And the best part of all is that the bills of Missouri up to September 1, 1920, are paid, and the dificit of $2,-200,000 which existed when Governor Gardner, Treasurer Middlekamp and Secretary of State Sullivan took official charge of the affairs of Missouri and all accrued interest, discounts and similar obligations, have been fully and legally wiped out..

Defifiencies, "Mysteriuos Stranger's" Regime.

In a speech on Sept. 18, 1920, at Cape Girardeau, Arthur M. Hyde, the republican candidate for Governor, using information which was prepared by a newspaperman, republican in politics, and clerks in the office of George E. Hackman, the present Republican State Auditor, asserted that no deficiencies were handed down to the Major admisistration from the four-year period when Hadley was Governor of Missouri, but, instead, there was passed along a surplus in the State's gener revenue fund of $1,500,000. How correct these facts and figures are is shown by the Sixty-three deficiency appropriations the General Assembly of 1911 made to meet the unpaid bills of Missouri for the first two years of the regime of the "Mysterious Stranger" the years 1909 and 1910, and, then in 1917, to meet the still larger deficiencies of last two years of the Hadley epoch, 1911 and 1912.

The total deficiency appropriations the four years of the Hadley term, amounted to nearly $618,000.000. To To cover the Hadley administration deficiencies of 1909 1910, the Forty-sixth General Assembly, which met in 1911, had to appropriate $289,662. The Forty-seventh General Assembly in early 1913, to cover the Hadley administration deficiencies of the two years, 1911 and 1912, had to appropriate $328,244, not considering $78,-000 which also had to be appropriated and paid to meet the cost of the temporary Capitol building erected after the fire in 1911 which destroyed the old State House.

Major Administration Paid Hadley Deficiencies

State's indebtedness, totaling $328,-244 which ought to have been defrayed during the Hadley administration, went over unpaid into the year 1913 and to save Missouri's credit, high-standing and financial reputation, had to be paid out of the general revenue fund which rightfully belonged to the Major administration, which regime had also to meet the cost of the new temporary Capitol building, contracted for and built during the Hadley administration, not considering other heavy expenditures which were made necessary by the disastrous destruction of the old State House.

Gov. Hadley inaugurated the system of withholding a portion of all appropriations to create a fund to meet old deficiencies. All improvement measures for State schools, institutions and other edifices, and many other necessary appropriations, were vetoed by Gov. Hadley in 1911 to create a fund to meet the deficiencies of 1909 and 1910, totaling $829,662. As a consequence when the Major administrations commenced in 1913, the State Normal schools and other educational institutions and eleemosynary and penal buildings and inclosures were in a deplorable condition and needed immediate attention to save them from collapsing from neglect and decay. State funds intended to keep these establishments and institutions in condition had been used during the four years of Republica rule to meet other less important obligations of the State.

During the Major administration all repair and necessary improvement to State institutions and establishments were made, and those which had been destroyed by fire were rebuilt. It was these necessary and badly needed repair and improvements, entirely neglected during the Hadley administration, which finally went far toward creating the big State deficit of $2,-200,000 which Governor Gardner, State Treasurer Middlekamp and Secretary of State Sullivan found facing them when they assumed charge of their official duties in 1917. After a conference of these three efficient and capable Democratic officials and leading members of the General Assembly of 1917 and Attorney General McAllister, Governor Gardner borrowed personally from St. Louis banks enough money to meet the total existing deficiency in State funds of $2,-200,00 and with this money State Treasurer Middlekamp paid every outstanding claim against Missouri. Needed legislation which increased the general annual revenue of Missouri quickly created a fund which was used to pay back what the St. Louis banks had advanced to save the credit and the financial reputation of Missouri.

Big Real surplus for Next Administration

The indications are that the surplus in the general revenue fund, alone, a fund which on September 28, 1920, as reviewed above, showed a comfortable balance of $2,929,000 at the close of the year when the present highly efficient and capable Gardner-Middlekamp-Sullivan administration terminates, will exceed $3,500,000. In his farewell message to the Fifty-first General Assembly which convenes in early January, 1921, just before he bids adieu officially to the people of Missouri, Governor Gardner will urge that a portion of the big real surplus he will leave, be used to retire all remaining outstanding State Capitol building bonds, totaling about $1,500,000 and thereby save the taxpayers about $135,000 in interest alone, not considering the biggest item of all, that it will also reduce the State taxes on each $100 of assessed valuation from 19 cents to 17 cents.

This purely Democratic measure when enacted by the incoming General Assembly will save for Missouri's taxpayers the further annual sum of $180,000. The next General Assembly therefore must be Democratic to bring to a fitting climax the present efficiency program of the Gardner-Sullivan-Middelkamp regime.

The annual loss to Missouri in revenue in the liquor industry all sosurces considered, due to Federal prohibition in 1920 and all years thereafter, will total $2,000,000. Not since January 16, last, has the State received any revenue from this source, and yet, regardless of this heavy loss, Missouri, at the close of 1920, will have a larger surplus in its general revenue fund than ever before in the history of the State.

Gardner Built Better than He Planned

Gov. Gardner built better than he planned in 1916 when he had the measures enacted which increased the State's annual general revenue fund without increasing the tax burdens for the masses. The increase in the State's income was sufficient not only to meet the huge loss following Federal prohibition but also to meet the additional burden arising through the higher cost of everything.

But the master stroke is the determination, if Missouri has a Democratic General Assembly in 1921, to call in and pay out of the big surplus all remaining outstanding State Capitol building bonds, thereby saving for five or six years $135,000 in interest, and last, but not least, reduce the State taxation rate from 19 cents to 17 cents.

STICK TO FACTS, MR. HYDE

We do not hold a brief for Gov. Gardner's administration, but we are bound to admit that his answer to the charge of incompetence and extravagance, made by Mr. Hyde, Republican candidate for Governor, puts the latter gentleman in an unpleasant predicament.

Gov. Gardner has given a complete answer as to the State's financial condition, its institutions and its expenditures, particularly during the past two years, when the State's deficit had been met. The State has taken care of its obligations and institutions, it has paid its full quota of money to the schools. Progressive improvements have been made or started in many directions. Legislation has succumbed to yap influence and the tax system has been vicious, but the Governor himself has tried to improve the system.

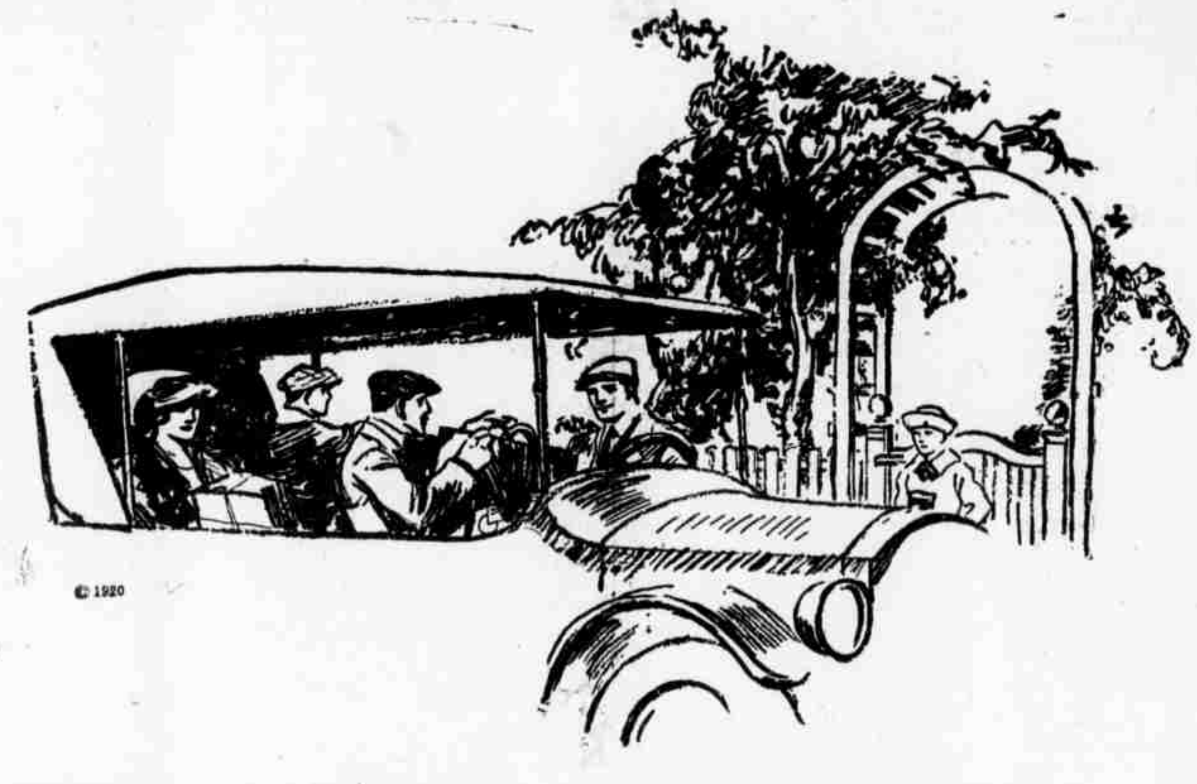
The deadliest part of Gov. Gardner's answer touches the exposure of gross misrepresentation by Mr. Hyde. The figures used by him to substantiate a charge of excessive taxes and expenditures are wholly incorrect and misleading. As Gov. Gardner shows, in effort to make his point, Mr. Hyde has used as the basis of revenue and expenditure the total amount of the funds passing through the State Treasury. Millions pass through the Treasury not chargeable to tax revenues or ordinary State expenditures. A deficit of more than $2,000,000 was wiped out; large sums were handled for the penitentiary industries, now operated by the State, and for roads; other large sums not chargeable to ordinary revenues and expenditures passed through the treasury books.

Mr. Hyde ought at least to be accurate in the figures upon which he bases charges of extravagance against the Democratic administration. He ought to know hat he is talking about and tell the truth.

We may add that in urging good election laws Mr. Hyde should tell the whole truth. We called attention to his deliberate ignoring of certain well-known facts about Republican elections in St. Louis in order to concentrate attention on election conditions in Democratic Kansas City. There have been frauds in St. Louis, but Mr. Hyde could only see them in Kansas City. Perhaps, like the virtuous Senator Spencer, who is publicly the Jekyll of Missouri Republican politics, he is only interested in reforming Kansas City. It will be recalled that Senator Spencer, in a private letter to Boss Schmoll on reform election legislation, only wanted to reform law for Kansas City. He didn't want election reform everywhere, but only where there were Democratic majorities.

With the remarkable blend of righteousness and political perspicacity which has distinguished his public career, Senator Spencer, urging Mr. Schmoll to fix the republican legislation for the right kind of election reform, reminded him that "Kansas City is the danger spot in Missouri." The kind of election reform "proposed by the Republican members of the Board of Election Commissioners of Kansas City will help a lot in Kansas City. I do not think we would want some of it in St. Louis, but for Kansas City they ought best to know their situation."

Taking Mr. Hyde's misrepresentation of the Gardner administration and the evident desire of both of these gentlemen to concentrate reforms in Democratic localities, we may say for the people that we do not want any of that in Missouri. The people want facts; they want reform all over the state. They are not all fools, and none of them are fools all the time.—Post-Dispatch.



MISSOURI STATE FINANCES ARE IN BETTER CONDITION THAN ANY STATE IN THE UNION

The people of Missouri are to be congratulated upon the splendid condition of their State finances. Under the Democratic administration, all of the old debts of the State, amounting to $2,200,000 have been paid in full: $800,000 has been invested in merchandise, machinery and farms for the State penitentiary, in order to make it self-supporting and to abolish the contract system; there is now in the General Revenue Fund about $2,750,000. Therefore, the State is $5,750,000 better off than it was four years ago.

This has been brought about by rigid economy and saving in every department of the State government. It only cost last year $9,121,233.41 to maintain the State government, of which over one half was devoted to the purposes of education. This is the lowest per capita tax of any of the 48 States of the American Union, and speaks more loudly than words for the business efficiency of the Democratic State administration.

What more could the taxpayers ask? The State is actually in position now, and Governor Gardner has recommended it, to reduce taxation notwithstanding the fact that we have absorbed the loss of the $3,000,000 formerly received biennially from the liquor traffic.

The present condition of the State treasury is due, in the first place, to the economical administration of the State Government, the total expenditure for the last year being $9,121,-233.41. When, with a per capita tax of $2.65, population 3,500,000, you compare this figure with the expenditures of States, similar in population and standing, for instance:

Alabama—Budget $9,155,000, per capita tax $3.50, estimated population 3,000,000;
California—Budget $23,637,993, per capita tax $7.57, estimated population 3,125,000;
Massachusetts— Budget $32,833,-801.03, per capita tax $30.90, estimated population 3,700,000;
Ohio—Budget $24,000,000, per capita tax $4.80, estimated population 5,000,000;
Wisconsin—Budget $16,000,000,000, per capita tax $5.07, estimated population 2,800,000,

you are convinced of our economies.

WHEN A BIG CITY MIGHT TAKE PRIDE

The ten or fifteen largest cities in the United States are still crowing about ther largely increased populations, as shown by the 1920 census.

For the life of us we can't see what they have to brag about. When you go to one of these overgrown communities, the first thing that strikes you is crowded street cars. Crowded? That's a mild word. They are packed and it is common to see men hanging on the steps and the dashboards behind in actual danger of their lives. None of these big cities have enough street cars. Moreover, it is a part of the traction companies' financial policy to have packed street cars during several hours of the day.

Pick up a newspaper in any of these big cities and you learn that the city hasn't enough homes to shelter its huge population. Everyone of them is short from 5000 to 100,000 houses or living apartments. Result: working people paying from $50 to $120 a month for a five or six-room house or flat.

The school term opened recently in all these cities. None of them has room enough for all the children of school age. In an average big town like Cleveland or Pittsburg or Detroit, tens of thousands of children cannot be accommodated. Hundreds of school rooms have 20 to 40 pupils too many, so that none in the room can be properly educated.

Some day, cities will take pride not in great populations, but in the fact that people can ride to work and back again comfortably, that they have homes enough for every family and that there are schools enough to properly educate their little children.

WHEE! CANCEL A TEN-BILLION DOLLAR DEBT?

Suppose you had a customer whose trade with you netted you a $10,000 a year profit for 20 years back and more. Suddenly everything went bad with him through no fault of his own. He owed you $10,000 and was on the point of blowing up for good. But if you said to him: "Never mind the $10,000. I'll cross it off the books and we'll call it square; now you start over again." Wouldn't that be good business on your part? Wouldn't that probably result presently in a return to you of that profit of $10,000 a year, or maybe $5000, from your old rehabilitated customer?

Well, the foregoing is the argument of the advocates of the plan of remitting to our late allies the ten-billion dollar debt they owe us. It is explained that this awful debt is largely the cause of the low exchange rate between French, Italian and English money. When the French franc, for instance, is only worth 5 cents over here instead of 20 cents, it makes it poor business for France to buy any thing from us. So also with England and Italy. It is better for them to buy from their colonies, or from Asia or South America or even Russia, where money is cheaper than their own. Thus we will lose export business. But if we cancel the debt, help those countries to put their money on a parity with ours, we will send more and more exports to them. So argue the advocates of the plan.

Ten billions of dollars is a big debt to cancel and the proposition looks dubious, anyway, at first glance. But it's a question we should all think over carefully.

In some way or other the credit of Europe, including Germany, must be made better if this America of ours is to prosper. The credit can't be all one-sided.